

## ***Duhaldea nervosa* (Wallich ex DC.) Anderberg [Asteraceae]: a new record to the flora of Himachal Pradesh**

**Krishan Lal<sup>1</sup>, D. K. Agrawala<sup>2</sup> and A. K. Pandey<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Himachal Pradesh P.W.D., Sangrah, Sirmour 173 023, Himachal Pradesh, India

<sup>2</sup> Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi 110 058, India

<sup>3</sup> Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi 110007, India

Corresponding author: arunpandey79@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

Present paper deals with the new distributional record of *Duhaldea nervosa* (Wallich ex DC.) Anderberg (Asteraceae) in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.

**Key words:** New record, *Duhaldea nervosa*, Himachal Pradesh

### **INTRODUCTION**

During a recent floristic survey in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, the authors came across some interesting specimens of Asteraceae. On critical examination and perusal of relevant literature, coupled with consultation of herbarium at Botanical Survey of India, Dehradun (BSD); Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (WII) and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun (DD), these were identified as *Duhaldea nervosa* (Wallich ex DC.) Anderberg. It was observed that, this species has not hitherto been treated in any of the literature pertaining to the flora of Himachal Pradesh (Collett 1921; Polunin & Stainton 1984, 1984a; Singh *et al* 1993; Aswal & Mehrotra 1994; Chowdhery & Wadhwa 1984; Dhaliwal & Sharma 1999; Kaur & Sharma 2004; Murti & Uniyal 1985; Nair 1977; Sharma & Dhaliwal 1997; Sharma & Singh 1996; Singh & Sharma 2006; Singh & Nath 1987; Singh & Rawat 2000; Lal & Rawat 2008; Pusalkar & Singh 2008). Though widely distributed from Uttarakhand to Eastern Himalaya and N.E. India through Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, this species was not reported from Himachal Pradesh. Kumar (1995) has mentioned this species as distributed at temperate Himalayas and N.E. India but no specimen from Himachal Pradesh could be located in any of the herbaria like CAL, BSD, DD, WII etc. consulted during the present study. A brief description along with photographs and information on phenology and habitat is provided here to facilitate easy identification.

***Duhaldea nervosa*** (Wallich ex DC.) Anderberg, *Inula nervosa* Wallich ex DC., Prodr. 5: 471. 1836; Hooker *f.*, Fl. Brit. India 3: 293. 1881; Kumar in Hajra *et al* (eds.), Fl. India 13: 20. 1995. Grierson & Long, Fl. Bhutan 2(3): 1496. t.124b. 2001.

Erect herbs, 30 – 50 cm high. Stem simple or branched, decumbent below. Lamina elliptic-lanceolate, distantly serrate, acute, cuneate at base, membranous, scaberulous on both surfaces, hairs with tubercled base, midrib prominent, veins sub-parallel; petioles 0.6 cm long. Heads solitary or corymbose, pedunculate, peduncles erect to flexuous; outer phyllaries green, herbaceous. Ray florets ligulate, white, 3-lobed; disc florets yellow. Achenes up to 1 mm long; pappus dirty white. (Fig. 1).

**Flowering & Fruiting:** August – November

**Habitat:** Moist shady places at altitude between 1200 – 2000 m above msl.

**Distribution:** India (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Meghalaya); Nepal; Bhutan; Tibet.



**Fig. 1 A, B.** *Inula nervosa* Wallich ex DC.: A. Habit, B. Close up view of inflorescence

**Exsiccatae:** Himachal Pradesh, Sirmour district, Raicha (Sangrah), along roadside, 20.09.2011, Krishan Lal 1929 (WII).

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